Defence Ministry riddled with scams and touts

†1079. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Ministry is in the grip of touts and Government have failed to get rid of it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are much bigger scams other than the coffin scam, on which CAG report has come; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save the Minister of Defence from such type of scams?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase of small items for the army from Small Scale Industries

†1080. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to purchase small items for army from Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent every year on purchase of these items from abroad; and

(c) if not, the manner in which Government propose to promote the Small Scale Industries and save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Capacities in Ordnance Factories have been created to cater to the demand from the Services and mainly the Army. As such under the policy of the Government, existing capacity of Ordnance Factories is first required to be fully booked for

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

utilization whether the item is reserved for Small Scale Industry or not. The balance quantity, if any, that remains uncovered is procured from the private sector/Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/The Handloom/Handicraft Sector or Central Cottage Industries Commission (CCIC) and from the Association of Corporation and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH). Certain items are reserved for procurement from the Handloom/Handicraft Sector like Hand Towel, Durries including floor durries, all bandages including gauze, handmade paper, stationery including file covers, writing pads, curtain & sofa cloth, table covers with napkins, dusters, bed sheets and blanket barracks. The items reserved for procurement form Small Scale Industries are not being procured from abroad.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of a new tank MBT-EX by DRDO

1081. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of *DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DRDO has developed a new battle tank with a code name "Tank Ex";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the final tests have been carried out on the new tank; and

(d) if so, by when Government propose to induct the same into the Indian Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This tank has been developed by integrating a modified low silhouette chassis of in service T-72 tank and re-engineered turret of of MBT ARJUN.The weight of this tank will be around 47 tons and the maximum road speed of about 60 km. per hour.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The tank has undergone only limited technical trials by DRDO.It will be offered to the Army at an appropriate stage.